

SUSPECTED STROKE

Stroke = a sudden change in brain function, due either to hemorrhage or vascular occlusion (ischemia). Treatment may be available: consider stroke a medical emergency. In addition to the usual History and Physical the following should be performed.

1. History:
 - a. Duration of symptoms?
2. Exam:
 - a. Stroke Scale
 - i. Abnormal speech?
 - ii. Facial droop on one side with attempted grimace?
 - iii. Arm drifts down or drops on one side when asked to hold them out?
3. Glucometer:
 - a. Blood glucose between 60 and 400?
4. Treatment:
 - a. Supplemental O₂.
 - b. Correct hypoglycemia (IV Dextrose 50 g.)
5. Triage:
 - a. Use Selection of Initial Hospital/Patient Triage Protocol. Give patients with any positive stroke scale finding (a, b or c above) the option of transport to a Primary Stroke Center.
6. **Contact Medical Control:**
 - a. Contact Primary Stroke Center if patient presents with any positive stroke scale finding (a, b or c above) and wants transport to a Primary Stroke Center.
7. Medical Control Options:
 - a. Unstable patients to closest hospital as per selection of Initial Hospital/Patient Triage Protocol.
 - b. Give stable patients with physical exam findings as above the option of transport to a Stroke Center.
 - c. Do not transport patients to a Primary Stroke Center without their permission.
 - d. Do not transport patients without signs as above to a Primary Stroke Center, unless that is their desired destination.